

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3288

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, MARCH 27 - APRIL

2, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I---SUMMARY.

1. QUANG NGAI CONTINUED TO BE THE FOCUS OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 1. IN TWO INCIDENTS THE COMMUNISTS BURNED DOWN A TOTAL OF NEARLY NINETY HOMES OF QUANG NGAI VILLAGERS WHO WOULD NOT RETURN TO A COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREA. OVERALL ACTIVITY IN MR 2 DECLINED BUT SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST ATTACKS AGAIN WERE MADE AGAINST ROUTE QL 19 SPORADICALLY INTERRUPTING TRAFFIC BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU. IN QUANG DUC PROVINCE ROUTE QL 14 WAS CLOSED BY COMMUNIST ATTACKS LEAVING PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IN MR 3 WITHOUT ROAD COMMUNICATION. THE COUNTRY'S MOST INTENSE MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK, HOWEVER, CENTERED IN MR 3, WHERE BATTALION-SIZED ATTACKS AND THE COORDINATED MOVEMENTS OF COMMUNIST REGIMENTS FORCED GVN TROOPS ON FULL ALERT REGION-WIDE AS THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDED. OVERALL ACTIVITY IN MR 3 WAS THE HIGHEST SINCE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN JUNE 1973 WITH TOTAL INCIDENTS JUMPING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED 377 AGAINST A PREVIOUS MR 3 HIGH OF 244. THE MAIN COMMUNIST ATTACKS DURING THE WEEK WERE IN HAU NGHIA AND INCLUDED AN UNSUCCESSFUL COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO OVERRUN A GVN RANGER CAMP IN DUC HUE DISTRICT BORDERING THE PARROT'S BEAK. THE ATTACK INCLUDED HEAVY SA-7 MISSILE SUPPORT FIRE. TWO VNAF A-1 SKYRAIDERS WERE DOWNED BY THE SA-7S AND ON L-19 OBSERVATION PLANE FORCED DOWN BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. OVERALL ACTIVITY IN MR 4 DECREASED BUT GROUND ATTACKS WERE UP RESULTING IN PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES NEARLY EQUAL TO THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. MOST OF THE INCREASE IN GROUND ATTACKS OCCURRED IN DINH TUONG IN THE NORTHERN DELTA AND KIEN GIANG IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA. ACTIVITY IN DIHN TUONG FORCUSED ON GVN LOCS IN AN APPARENT COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE GVN PRESSURE ON THE
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COMMUNISTS' TRI PHAP BASE AREA AND TO PROTECT INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A. KIEN GIANG WAS THE DELTA'S MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE (126 INCIDENTS) WITH COMMUNIST PRESSURE HIGH IN KIEN AN AND KIEN BINH DISTRICTS. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE IN THE CENTRAL DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL BUT WITH INCREASED GVN SUCCESS. ON MARCH 30 THE LONG DELAYED INVESTIGATION OF THE CAI LAY SCHOOL TRAGEDY WAS CARRIED OUT BY ALL FOUR ICCS TEAMS, THE FIRST SUCH INVESTIGATION SINCE JULY. THE INVESTIGATION WAS INTERRUPTED AND HAS NOT YET

BEEN COMPLETED.

PART II--TPJMC

2. ON MARCH 22 TH CHIEF OF THE GVN DELEGATION, BG PHAN HOA HIEP, RESPONDED TO THE TWO POINTS IN THE PRG SIX-POINT PROPOSAL WHICH FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE JMC. HIEP INSISTED THAT ANOTHER VAGUE APPEAL FOR CEASEFIRE WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING SO LONG AS THE NLF REFUSED TO LEAVE ITS FORCES IN PLACE, REFUSED TO NAME AND PERMIT JMC AND ICCS MANNING OF ENTRY POINTS, AND REFUSED TO DEPLOY ITS PERSONNEL TO OTHER SITES SPECIFIED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. HE NOTED THAT THE CONCRETE CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE RVN IN PARIS IN JUNE AS WELL AS THE FOUR MEASURES HE PROPOSED IN JANUARY TO EFFECT AN IMMEDIATE DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY AS IT AFFECTS CIVILIANS, STILL STOOD. HIEP PROPOSED THAT THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF PRISONERS BE RESOLVED IN SIXTY DAYS: DURING THE FIRST THIRTY DAYS THE STATUS OF GVN CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR SINCE PRIOR TO THE CEASEFIRE AND WITHIN ANOTHER THIRTY DAYS THE RETURN OF ALL PERSONNEL CAPTURED SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN AN ACRIMONIOUS SESSION ON MARCH 29 NOTHING FURTHER WAS ADDED BY EITHER SIDE.

3. ON APRIL 2 HIEP PROPOSED THAT THE JMC AND ICCS SEND TEAMS TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITY AT DUC HUE AND TON LE CHAN (SEE PART VI, MR 3) TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICTING CHARGES LEVELED BY THE TWO SIDES. AS USUAL, THE NLF REFUSED TO AGREE TO AN INVESTIGATION AND BLATANTLY STATED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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LIMDIS

PART IV -- MR 1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS, THERE WERE 80 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 11, AND A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S TOTAL OF 70. GVN CASUALTIES: 64 KIA; 254 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 132 KIA; 2 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS SOME INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL REMAINS VERY LOW. THE ENEMY MINED THE RAILROAD ON MARCH 27, BUT THE MINES WERE DISCOVERED AND LITTLE DAMAGE OCCURRED. PART OF THE INCREASE IN ACTIVITY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO MORE FREQUENT PATROLLING BY THE AIRBORN AND THE 1ST DIVISION.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM THERE WAS A SLIGHT DECREASE IN OVERALL ACTIVITY AND ENEMY MINE INCIDENTS DECREASED BY HALF. THREE RF OUTPOSTS WERE ATTACKED, AND ANOTHER ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON A Q.L. 1 BRIDGE,

BUT THE MINE CAUSED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE.

4. IN QUANG TIN THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY. IN QUANG NGAI, HOWEVER, THE ENEMY GREW MORE AGGRESSIVE. COMMUNIST INITIATED INCIDENTS OUTNUMBERED GVN INITIATED CONTACTS 2 TO 1. ON MARCH 28 THE ENEMY ENTERED THE TU CUNG-MY KHE RTV SITE IN SON MY VILLAGE, SON TINH DISTRICT AND BURNED 36 HOUSES; ON MARCH 30 THEY RETURCED AND BURNED 50 MORE. THIS WAS APPARENTLY A FULFILLMENT OF A REPORTED THREAT MADE LAST MONTH THAT IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT RETURN TO THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREA OF THE VILLAGE, THEY WOULD BE BURNED OUT. ON NEITHER OCCASION DID THE HAMLET POPULAR FORCES OFFER ANY RESISTANCE.

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5. ON MARCH 30 IN QUANG NGAI THE ENEMY ATTACKED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 139TH RF BATTALION. THE GVN LOST 5 KIA AND 8 WIA AND REPORTED 5 ENEMY KIA. DURING THE WEEK THE VIET CONG ALSO ROCKETED THE PERIMETER OF QUANG NGAI CITY AND BLEW UP A CULVERT ON Q.L. 1 IN DUC PHO DISTRICT, THUS BLOCKING FOR A SHORT TIME ALL BUT LIGHT VEHICLES. MO DUC DISTRICT TOWN WAS ALSO ROCKETED.

6. ICCS:

IN REGION I THE INDONESIANS OBSERVED THE SITE OF AN ENEMY MINE INCIDENT AND INTERVIEWED A RECENTLY RETURNED ENEMY CAPTIVE. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED A PETITION FROM LOC TRI VILLAGERS OF PHU LOC DISTRICT, THUA THIEN REQUESTING ICCS INTERVENTION TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF VILLAGE CHILDREN REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 22. IN REGION II THE INDONESIANS OBSERVED THE SITE OF AN ENEMY ROCKET ATTACK IN QUANG NAM AND ELSEWHERE THEY AND THE IRANIANS OBSERVED THE SITE OF THE GROUND ATTACK ON THE 139TH RF BATTALION. THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN HEADS OF THE REGION II DELEGATION ALSO VISITED THE NAM O BRIDGE SITE WHERE LAST WEEK THE ENEMY ATTACKED TO RF POSITIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 6 SAIGON 4268

LIMDIS

PART V -- MR 2.

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED IN MR II FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK, WITH ONLY 116 INCIDENTS REPORTED.

LAST WEEK THERE WERE 134. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY INCLUDED REPEATED INTERDICTION ATTEMPTS ON QL-19 AND THE CLOSING OF QL-14 IN SOUTH-WESTERN QUANG DUC PROVINCE THEREBY ISOLATING ONCE AGAIN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, IN MR III. AS USUAL, PLEIKU AND BINH DINH PROVINCES ACCOUNTED FOR MOST INCIDENTS IN THE REGION WITH 36 AND 28 RESPECTIVELY. INCIDENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN BINH THUAN (12), PHU YEN (11), QUANG DUC (10), KONTUM (9), DARLAC (3), TUYEN DUC (3), KHANH HOA (2), LAM DONG (1) AND CAM RANH (1). RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE 64 KIA AND 98 WIA, COMPARED TO 37 AND 173 A WEEK AGO. MLH DECLINED FROM 25 TO 1. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE DOWN FROM 271 KIA AND 22 CAPTURED TO 202 KIA AND 3 CAPTURED. AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED IN PLEIKU (106), KONTUM (91), QUANG DUC (15), BINH DINH (12) AND BINH THUAN (8).

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: INTERMITTENT FIGHTING CONTINUES ON AND NEAR QL-19 IN THE VICINITY OF THE MANG YANG PASS. TEN COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS OCCURRED ALONG THE HIGHWAY DURING THE WEEK, SPORADICALLY INTERRUPTING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE SECTOR TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTERS, THERE WERE 59 INCIDENTS ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN FEB 28 AND MARCH 28. ALL BUT TWO OCCURRED IN PLEIKU. AT A BRIEFING IN PLEIKU ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 1, THE G-2 CLAIMED THAT THE 9TH NVA REGIMENT, ATTACHED TO THE 320TH DIVISION, IS SUFFERING FROM LOW MORALE AND THAT THE UNIT RECENTLY HAD 100 DESERTERS. SENIOR GVN OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE MR COMMANDER, LT. GENERAL NGUYEN VAN TOAN, CONTINUE TO BE CONVINCED THAT A MAJOR ATTACK IS COMING IN KONTUM WHEN THE RAINS BEGIN IN A MONTH OR SO. THEY NOTE THE CONTINUED LOGISITICAL BUILD-UP AND THE MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES INTO FORWARD AREAS. THEY ANTICIPATE AN ATTACK ON THE CHU PAO PASS, BETWEEN KONTUM AND PLEIKU, AT THE SAME TIME. THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO STRIKE AT COMMUNIST CONVOYS IN KONTUM.

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3. BINH DINH PHU YEN: OUR PROV REP IN BINH DINH REPORTS AN OVERALL DECLINE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY, DESPITE THE MARCH 27 AMBUSH IN THE AN KHE PASS, ON QL-19, WHICH RESULTED IN 18 TRUCKS DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF MINOR CONTACTS AND HARASSMENTS BY THE COMMUNISTS, MOSTLY IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS. CONTACTS IN PHU YEN PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK WERE SMALL AND RESULTED ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM RF OPERATIONS ON THE FRINGES OF COMMUNIST BASES.

4. OTHER AREAS: GOVERNMENT FORCES SECURING QL-14 BETWEEN KIEN DUC (QUANG DUC PROVINCE) AT THE MR III BORDER WERE ATTACKED BY COMMUNIST FORCES ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 31, CLOSING THE HIGHWAY WHICH HAD BEEN OPEN FOR TRAFFIC SINCE MARCH 14. IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE A LARGE GOVERNMENT OPERATION WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE MARCH 7 ENDED ON MARCH 29. THE OPERATION WAS DESIGNED TO CLEAR OUT A COMMUNIST BASE AREA, REDUCE COMMUNIST PRESSURE ON

THIEN GIAO AND HAM THUAN DISTRICTS AND, HOPEFULLY, FIND AND DESTROY VC MR VI HEADQUARTERS. THE OPERATION ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN THE SENSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT DISRUPTED LIFE IN THE BASE AREA, INFILCTED SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES ON THE COMMUNISTS, CAPTURED VALUABLE FOODSTUFFS, INCLUDING 28 TONS OF PADDY, AND DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF HOMES AND BUNKERS. OUR PROV REP NOTES HOWEVER THAT THE RATE OF COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THIEN GIAO AND HAM THUAN REMAINS CONSTANT AT ABOUT 10 TO 12 PER WEEK. (THIS IS A MUCH HIGHER FIGURE THAN IS REPORTED AT THE BRIEFINGS IN NHA TRANG.) ON MARCH 27, A DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED IN PHU SUNG VILLAGE, HAM THUAN DISTRICT, WHEN FOUR B-40 ROUNDS WERE FIRED INTO THE HOUSE HE WAS OCCUPYING. LAM DONG PROVINCE WAS GENERALLY QUIET, BUT ON MARCH 25, SECTOR FORCES DISCOVERED AND DESTROYED A COMMUNIST BASE WHICH INCLUDED 20 HOUSES WITH TIN ROOFS. DARLAC PROVINCE, WHERE THE 44TH AND 45TH REGIMENTS ARE RPTING AND REFITTING, WAS MORE QUIET THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE EARLY DECEMBER. NORMALLY PEACEFUL KHANH HOA PROVINCE, WHICH SURROUNDS NHA TRANG CITY, HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN SMALL UNIT GROUND CONTACTS. A RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENT INDICATES A SUBSTANTIAL BUILD-UP OF COMMUNIST FORCES.

5. ICCS: THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS IN REGION IV MADE INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE MARCH 27 ASSASSINATION OF A GVN DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEF IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE AND CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS INDEED ASSASSINATED. THE ONLY REPORTED OFFICIAL
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ACTIVITY IN REGION III WAS THE TRIP OF THE CHIEF OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO SAIGON TO RECEIVE
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LIMDIS

PART VI -- MR 3.

1. WITH THIS MESSAGE, WE ARE INSTITUTING A SERIES OF DAILY SITREPS WHICH WE PROPOSE TO SEND SO LONG AS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED SCALE OF NVA/VC ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN MR 3.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 APRIL 3 WITH 51 INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT MR 3. DAILY AVERAGE FOR WEEK ENDING 0800 APRIL 2 WAS 54 INCIDENTS. HAU NGHIA ACCOUNTED FOR 37 PERCENT OF THE APRIL 2 INCIDENTS BUT ACTION SHIFTED FROM DUC HUE RANGER CAMP IN WESTERN HAU NGHIA TO CU CHI, TRANG BANG AND DUC HOA DISTRICTS. ENEMY FORCES FIRED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR BARRAGES (49 ROUNDS) AGAINST ARVN AND RF UNIT POSITIONS IN CU CHI AND TRANG BANG DISTRICTS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. IN 4 CONTACTS 7 KMS NORTH OF CU CHI ON APRIL 2, THE NEWLY CREATED 315TH MOBILE STRIKE FORCE (PARA 3) ACCOUNTED FOR 23 ENEMY KIA AND 1 CIA (FROM THE 1ST BN, 271ST REG., 9TH NVA DIVISION) WHILE TAKING

LOSSES OF 8 WIA. A CONTACT 6 KMS NE OF TRANG BANG, IN WHICH THE 319TH RF BN WAS INVOLVED, RESULTED IN 7 FRIENDLY WIA, ENEMY UNKNOWN. A PATROL ELEMENT OF THE 303RD RF BN CONTACTED USEF 7 KMS WEST OF DUC HOA RESULTING IN 2 FRIENDLY KIA, 14 WIA AND ENEMY LOSSES UNKNOWN.

3. TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION, MR 3 HQS HAS DRAWN FROM THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE TO CREATE TWO MOBILE STRIKE FORCES, THE 315TH AND 318TH TO MEET THE NEW THREAT IN WESTERN MR 3. THE STRIKE FORCES ARE COMPOSED OF THE 15TH AND 18TH CAVALRY, RESPECTIVELY, AND ELEMENTS OF THE 36TH RANGER GROUP. THE 315TH IS BASED IN THE PHU HOA AREA (NORTHEAST OF CU CHI) AND THE 318TH IS BASED ALONG LTL 19 FROM TRANG BANG TOWARDS KHIEM HANH.

4. MR 3 HQS NOW HAS REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THE 15TH AND 24TH INDEPENDENT NVA REGIMENTS OF VC MR-2 ARE INVOLVED IN THE DUC HUE ACTION AS WELL AS THE E-6 REGT, 5TH NVA. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO CONFIRMATION AS YET. THE 9TH BN, E-6 REGT, NOW LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AT ABOUT XT 3212, WAS INITIALLY
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DEPLOYED TO AMBUSH ARVN 46TH REGT ENROUTE TO REINFORCE DUC HUE BASE. IT WAS DETECTED AND DRIVEN OUT OF ITS AMBUSH POSITION BACK TOWARD CAMBODIA.

5. ARTILLERY AT DUC HUE IS BELIEVED TO BE MAINLY FROM D-22 BN/ 5TH NVA (ONLY KNOWN 5TH DIV UNIT WITH 120MM MORTARS) AND ELEMENTS OF THE 42ND HOWITZER REGT/69TH NVA ARTY GROUP. SINCE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES (SA-7) ARE NOT PART OF NVA INF DIVISION EQUIPMENT, ELEMENTS OF THE 75TH ARTY GROUP (AKA 69TH) ARE BELIEVED TO BE ATTACHED TO NVA 5TH FOR AA SUPPORT FOR THE DUC HUE ACTION.

6. AN AGENT REPORTS HAVING SEEN LIGHTS ON 20 VEHICLES MOVING FROM CHI PHU (XT 1120) TOWARDS PARROT'S BEAK ON NIGHT OF MARCH 30 BELIEVED TO BE ARTY, ROCKET, AND AMMO RESUPPLY TRUCKS. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THESE WERE TANKS.

7. ANOTHER AGENT REPORTED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 29/30 4 TANKS (NFI) DEPARTED CHI PHU, CAMBODIA (XT 1120) MOVING EASTWARD.

8. MR 3 HQS NOW BELIEVES THAT THE NVA 5TH DIV IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO TAKE DUC HUE AND TRANG BANG DISTRICTS OF HAU NGHIA LINKING WITH THE NVA 9TH DIV AND OTHER NVA UNITS IN THE HAU NGHIA/TAY NINH/BINH DUONG TRI-BORDER AREA TO ISOLATE TAY NINH PROVINCE. THIS MOVE WOULD CUT ROUTE 1 LEADING TO TAY NINH, RE-ESTABLISH THE SHORT SUPPLY ROUTE FROM CAMBODIA TO HO BO/BOI LOI WOODS AREA INTERDICITED BY THE GVN SINCE 1970, AND OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING TAY NINH CITY, THUS REALIZING A PRG GOAL OF CONTROLLING A MAJOR POPULATION CENTER IN THE SOUTH.

9. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3 MILITARY ACTION WAS SCATTERED, CONSISTING

MAINLY OF ABF'S AND SMALL UNIT CONTACTS. THERE WERE 8 INCIDENTS
IN BINH LONG, 7 IN PHUOC TUY AND 4 EACH IN TAY NINH AND BIEN HOA,
NONE OF THEM MAJOR.

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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LIMDIS

PART VII - MR 4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MR4 REPORTS A DECREASE IN ACTIVITY FROM 479 INCIDENTS LAST WEEK TO 393 THIS WEEK. ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN DELTA WAS CONCENTRATED IN WESTERN DINH TUONG PROVINCE APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF VC/NVA ATTEMPTS TO COUNTER GVN ESTABLISHMENT OF HAU DUC DISTRICT, TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON TRI PHAP, AND TO PROTECT INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A THROUGH DINH TUONG. MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA WAS KIEN GIANG WHERE VC/NVA INTEREST APPEARS TO BE THE EXPANSION OF CONTROL INTO STRATEGIC AND FERTILE AREAS OF THE PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH TOTAL INCIDENTS DECREASED, THE NUMBER OF GROUND ATTACKS INCREASED FROM 52 TO 68. AS A RESULT, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES REMAINED ALMOST AS HIGH AS LAST WEEK. MR4 REPORTS 228 FRIENDLY KIA (239 LAST WEEK), 820 WIA (888), 116 MIA (142), AND 14 CREW-SERVED (9) AND 294 INDIVIDUAL (301) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 643 VC/NVA KIA (659), 20 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (21), AND 18 CREW-SERVED (29) AND 247 INDIVIDUAL (243) WEAPONS LOST. MR4 IS CLOSELY WATCHING SHARPLY INCREASED NVA ACTIVITY IN PARROT'S BEAK AREA. MR4 G-2 BELIEVES THE 367B NVA SAPPER REGIMENT, WHICH DEFEATED A FANK BATTALION IN SOUTHEASTERN SVAY RIENG PROVINCE, WAS ENROUTE TO REINFORCE COMMUNIST FORCES IN THE DELTA. G-2 APPEARS TO BE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF 5TH NVA DIVISION ACTIONS IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE AND PARROT'S BEAK AREA OF CAMBODIA. HE HAS BEEN PREDICTING THE MOVEMENT OF 5TH DIVISION INTO MR4 TO COUNTER GVN TRI PHAP OPERATIONS, BUT NOW SAYS ONLY THAT THE 5TH DIVISION MOVE IS STILL POSSIBLE.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: OVERALL ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE REMAINED HIGH WITH ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED AS LAST WEEK. GROUND ATTACKS, HOWEVER, ROSE FROM 10 LAST WEEK TO 23 THIS WEEK, WITH GIAO DUC DISTRICT THE FOCUS OF ENEMY ATTENTION. OF 5 OB'S OVERRUN DURING THE WEEK, 4 WERE IN GIAO DUC. LOC'S REMAINED A PARTICULAR TARGET FOR VC/NVA ACTIVITY. TWO BRIDGES ON ROUTE 30, CONNECTING DINH TUONG WITH CAO LANH, WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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DAMAGED BY PLASTIQUE CHARGES, AND TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO BE INTERRUPTED FOR TWO WEEKS. ROUTE 20 IN HAU THANH VILLAGE (CAI BE DISTRICT) WAS MINED. RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM DINH TUONG INDICATE VC/NVA INTENTION TO INCREASE ACTIVITY IN WESTERN DINH TUONG WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON LOC'S AS A MEANS OF COUNTERING GVN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OF NEWLY-FORMED HAU DUC DISTRICT, TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON TRI PHAP, AND TO PROTECT INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A THROUGH DINH TUONG. (PERHAPS IT WAS THESE INCIDENTS TO WHICH SAIGON 4116 REFERRED IN SPEAKING OF ATTEMPTS TO CUT LOC'S INTO TRI PHAP AREA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION RE ACTION ON LOC'S INTO TRI PHAP ITSELF.) KIEN PHONG AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES WERE RELATIVELY QUIET, BUT ATMOSPHERE IN KIEN PHONG IS THAT PRESENT LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IS A LULL BEFORE THE STORM. EXPECTED ATTACKS IN KIEN VAN DISTRICT HAVE NOT YET MATERIALIZED, BUT S-2 REPORTS THAT VC 502A MAIN FORCE BATTALION HAS 107 AND 122MM ROCKETS AND EXPECTS THEM TO BE USED AGAINST CAO LANH AND KIEN VAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHAU DOC PROVINCE REPORTED INCREASED ACTIVITY WITH 12 GVN SOLDIERS KILLED. HALF OF THESE CASUALTIES RESULTED FROM ABF AGAINST THE 709 RF COMPANY AND THE CHAU LANG OB, AN LAC (V), TRI TON (D).

(C) TRI PHAP: WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION ON TRI PHAP OPERATIONS, INFORMATION ON WHICH IS STILL CLOSELY HELD. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT NO MAJOR ENCOUNTERS HAVE OCCURRED THERE IN PAST WEEK.
(D) VC MR3: KIEN GIANG WAS THE DELTA'S MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 126 INCIDENTS REPORTED. VC/NVA OBJECTIVE THERE APPEARS TO BE TO EXTEND CONTROL OF POPULATION AND LAND INTO STRATEGIC AND FERTILE AREAS OF THE PROVINCE BY INTENSE MILITARY ACTIVITY, SUCH AS INTERDICITING LOC'S TO DISRUPT GVN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY MOVEMENT, AND BY SYSTEMATICALLY TARGETING OPERATING TERRITORIAL FORCES AND GVN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. PRESSURE CONTINUED STRONG IN KIN KIEN AN AND KIEN BINH DISTRICTS AND PICKED UP IN HA TIEN, KIEN LUONG AND KIEN THANH DISTRICTS. IN KIEN BINH, A MORTAR CREW AND 2 PF PLATOONS WERE AMBUSHED. PRELIMINARY REPORTS LISTS ONE KIA, 23 MIA AND MANY WEAPONS LOST. IN A DELYAED REPORT, KIEN GIANG REPORTS THAT TWO OB'S WERE OVERRUN AND ONE ABANDONED ON MARCH 21 IN DONG YEN VILLAGE, KIEN AN, WTH 24 GVN KIA, 3 WIA, AND 33 INDIVIDUAL AND TWO CREW-SERVED WEAPONS LOST. IN THE AN GIANG SPECIAL AO IN KIEN GIANG, THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 16TH REGIMENT, 9TH ARVN DIVISION, PERFORMED WELL AFTER BEING AIRLIFTED FROM CHAU DOC IN RESPONSE TO HARD CONFIDENTIAL

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INTELLIGENCE. THE BATTALION CLAIMED 17 VC KIA WHILE SUSTAINING ONLY ONE ARVN KIA AND 3 WIA. AN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF REPORTS COORDINATION BETWEEN ARVN UNIT AND TERRITORIAL FORCES WAS EXCELLENT AND EXPECTS MORE OPERATIONS OF THIS TYPE TO COUNTER ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO RE-ESTABLISH INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 AID-10 DODE-00 PM-03

NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-01

OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-03 PRS-01 L-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 /085 W

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O R 031130Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3293

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

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ELSEWHERE IN VC MR3, ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN LAST WEEK. VINH BINH PROVINCE REPORTS LITTLE CHANGE IN LEVEL OF ACTIVITY BUT WITH GREATER GVN SUCCESS. IN TWO SEPARATE OPERATIONS AT PHONG PHU VILLAGE, CAU KE (D), 40 VC WERE REPORTED KILLED WITH ONLY 4 FRIENDLY CASUALTIES AND 9 RF MIA. MOST VC INITIATIVES WERE LIMITED TO HARASSMENTS AND SHELLINGS. ALATE REPORT REVEALED THAT 89 VC WERE KILLED IN THE PROVINCE LAST WEEK WITH ONLY 6 GVN MILITARY AND 4 CIVILIANS KILLED. VINH BINH OFFICIALS FEEL THESE SUCCESSES SHOULD FORCE DECREASE IN RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY. NEIGHBORING VINH LONG PROVINCE REPORTED A SLIGHT DECREASE IN ACTIVITY WITH SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS CONCENTRATED IN VUNG LIEM AND TAM BINH DISTRICTS. IN HIEU THANH VILLAGE, VUNG LIEM (D), RF FORCES, WITH AIR SUPPORT AND ACTING ON HARD INTELLIGENCE, KILLED 25 VC AND CAPTURED 5 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, BUT LOST 6 KIA, 32 WIA, 21 MIA, 25 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, AND 4 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS. IN TRUNG THANH VILLAGE, ALSO IN VUNG LIEM, A COORDINATED ABF AND GROUND ATTACK AGAINST AN RF BASE RESULTED IN 8 FRIENDLY KIA, 7WIA, 5 MIA, 4 CIVILIANS KIA AND 7 CIVILIANS WIA. 26 INDIVIDUAL WEAPNONS AND 4 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS WERE LOST. ENEMY LOSSES WERE UNKNOWN. ESTIMATES WERE THAT OVER 50 ROUNDS OF 82MM, 75MM AND B-40 WERE FIRED INTO THE BASE. SA DEC REPORTED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ACTIVITY, WITH ALL BUT ONE VC-INITIATED INCIDENT RESULTING FROM BOOBY TRAPS. IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN PHONG DINH, ABOUT HALF OF 4541 REFUGEES CREATED IN LATE FEBRUARY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. MOST OF BUNG TAU CANAL FROM THE DISTRICT TOWN TO TAN PHUOC HUNG VILLAGE REMAINS CONTROLLED BY VC DAY AND NIGHT, WHILE THE LAI HIEU CANAL TO HIEP HUNG AND HOA MY VILLAGES REMAINS SUBJECT TO VC INTERDICTION. PHUNG HIEP DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF BELIEVES THE SITUATION MAY REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN WAS MUCH LOWER THAN LAST WEEK WITH 35 INCIDENTS REPORTED. KIEN HUNG DISTRICT HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE RECENTLY AND THE DISTRICT TOWN RECEIVED TWO ROUNDS OF 82MM EVENING OF MARCH 30 WITH NO CASULATIES. BA XUYEN EXPERIENCED A DRAMATIC DECREASE IN ACTIVITY BUT GVN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT (6 MILITARY AND 1 CIVILIANS

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KIA). NO VC/NVA WERE REPORTED KILLED. ACTIVITY CONSISTED

MAINLY OF ABF AND HARASSMENTS INTO OB'S. ACTIVITY IN THE THUAN HOA/NGA NAM DISTRICT BORDER AREA DECLINED THIS WEEK FOLLOWING REINFORCEMENT OF THE 32ND REGIMENT/WEST ARVN DIVISION AND 408 RF BATTALION. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE DECREASED FROM LAST WEEK, BUT SHELLING INCIDENTS ROSE: LAC HOA, VINH MY AND VINH HUNG VILLAGE HEAD-QUARTERS WERE ALL SHELLED. 21ST DIVISON G-2 BELIEVES NEWLY-FORMED VC BAC LIEU BATTALION IS TARGETED AGAINST THESE VILLAGES.

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